

To the Urban District Council of Fareham.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health For the Year ending December 31st, 1925.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

The District comprises about 6592 acres. The Population at the census (1921) was 10,066, for 1925 it is estimated at 11,300. Number of inhabited houses in 1921 was 2023. For last year the estimated number is 2387.

The number of families or separate occupiers in 1921 was 2064.

The Rateable Value is £60,149 and the sum estimated by a penny rate on the Assessable Value is £213 gross.

It is of a flat nature in the main but the northern part is situated on rising ground, the north-eastern part running up to the western end of the Portsdown Hills. The southern and western portions are flat. The soil is composed of gravel and clay, but is chalky in the north-eastern part. The chief occupations of the inhabitants are largely agricultural, there are no special occupations which have any influence on the Public Health. There are no Hospitals, or gratuitous medical relief, other than the Poor Law Institution, and the County Mental Hospital at Knowle.

There has been no special amount of sickness during the year which calls for any special comment.

Vital Statistics.

Births.—The total number of births during the year was 191—100 being males and 91 females. Of these 182 were legitimate, 92 males and 90 females. 9 births were illegitimate, 8 males and 1 female.

Deaths.—The total number of Deaths for the year was 110, a slight increase on last year in which the number was 105. Of these deaths 53 were males and 57 females.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs caused 25 deaths, of which 4 were caused by Pulmonary Tuberculosis. From Cancer there were 15 deaths as against 10 in 1924, and 9 in 1923. There has been no death from Puerperal Sepsis. Deaths of infants under 1 year of age numbered 11 as against 5 last year.

There has been no excessive or unusual mortality which requires special comment.

General Provision of Health Services in the District.

No Hospital for Tuberculosis, Maternity or children is provided in the District.

The Rural Council's Hospital for Infectious Disease is available for cases in the District. Total number of beds in Hospital 22. Small Pox cases can be treated at the County Councils Hospitals in the County. Other General Hospitals to which patients may be sent are at Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester.

There is no Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children and homeless children, except that afforded by the Poor Law Institution.

A Motor Ambulance is provided in the Town for accidents and general cases, and the Motor Ambulance belonging to the Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital for use in infectious cases only.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is worked in the Town by the Assistant County Medical Officers, who lecture and give treatment weekly. This is generally well attended.

A Department for the treatment of Venereal Diseases can be attended twice weekly at the Royal Portsmouth Hospital.

Tuberculosis cases can be treated at the Gosport Dispensary by the County Tuberculosis Officer who attends twice weekly.

The Staff engaged in the Sanitary Work of the District consists of an Inspector and one Assistant Inspector, besides myself. All are part time officers.

Midwives.—No subsidy is granted by the Council to Midwives in the District. The number of Midwives, including the two nurses of the Fareham Nursing Guild, practising in the District is four. All Chemical, Pathological and Bacteriological work is done at the County Council's Laboratories at Winchester, which are always available.

The Adoptive Acts are those of the Public Health Acts of 1890 and 1907.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water.—The Water Supply is of very good quality, and is apparently inexhaustible in quantity. It is somewhat hard owing to the presence of chalk, but very good for drinking purposes. The whole of the Town itself is supplied by the Fareham Water Works, the property of the Council, the supply of which is constant. In a few of the outlying parts of the District the houses and cottages obtain their supply from wells of a varying depth, mostly of 20 feet or over, the quality of which is very fair. No evidence of any contamination by lead has been observed during the year.

The number of gallons of water pumped for the year was approximately 129,005,125, the daily average consumption for all purposes amounting to 353,440 gallons. The number of houses supplied by the Council's mains was 2,235. From the mains of the Gosport Water Company which pass through the District, 29. Cottages supplied by wells, 80.

Rivers and Streams.—A small river runs through the lower part of the Town, but no necessity for action has arisen on account of pollution during the year.

Drainage and Sewage.—The Town is drained by Sewers with the exception of the outlying villages of Funtley and Catisfield, where cesspools and earth closets are in use. The sewers finally empty into settling tanks, the effluent from thence passing into the tide, an arm of Portsmouth Harbour, the sludge being regularly removed and disposed of, the sewers are ventilated and systematically flushed. The cesspools in the outlying districts are emptied by the Council's apparatus. There are 345 cesspits in the district.

Closet Accommodation.—The number of Fresh Water Closets (excluding Asylum, Forts Wallington and Fareham) is 2,664. The number of Privies with moveable receptacles including Pail and Earth Closets is 379. Conversion of Privies to Pail Closets during the year, one. Old Privies of a deep type are being done away with entirely, and earth closets substituted, and also where one privy exists for two houses an additional closet is provided.

Scavenging.—This work is undertaken by the Council and collections of refuse are regularly made, a hooded vehicle being employed. The number of fixed ash pits is 71. Five conversions or removals being made during the year.

The number of fixed galvanised bins with covers is five. The number of moveable galvanised ashbins with covers is 1,710. The number of other receptacles, baths, buckets, etc., is 90. Of these 20 were removed or substituted during the year.

For Sanitary Inspection of the District see Table.

Food.—(a) **Milk Supply.**—This is adequate and on the whole good. The number of cows is approximately 350. The number of cow sheds 60, dairies 25, and purveyors of milk and milk shops 15. The cowsheds have been frequently inspected and were found to be generally well kept and in a good sanitary condition. They are usually sprayed and limewashed twice a year or oftener if necessary. The Cowkeepers in the District have been supplied with a large printed card, with directions as to keeping the cows clean, and how the milkers should endeavour to keep their hands clean. 186 inspections were made during the year, 22 defects were found, which were all remedied upon formal notices by the Inspector. A few instances were discovered where the milk contained dirt or other foreign matter, and the retail purveyors were written to, and warned to be more careful in the future. No refusal of a retailer's licence was found necessary during the year.

Meat.—Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, inspections at the time of slaughter have been regularly carried out. Inspections of slaughter houses have also been frequently made, which have been found to be kept in a satisfactory condition, no serious defects having been discovered during the year.

I have inspected several carcases of tuberculosis cows since the order came into force, and have given the necessary directions as to the disposal of the same.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

	1920.	Jan. 1925.	Dec. 1925.
Registered	6	6	6
Licensed	6	4	4
Total	12	10	10

Bakehouses have also been regularly inspected, two defects were found, but not of a serious nature. There are no underground bakehouses in the District.

The work under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act is carried out by the County Council.

Schools.—The Sanitary Condition of the Schools in the District is satisfactory, they are all provided with water closets with the exception of Funtley, where earth closets are in use. The water supply is good and sufficient.

If any infectious outbreak should occur, the class-rooms, as well as the apparatus used by the children is thoroughly disinfected.

Inspection of the children is frequently carried out by the School Medical Officers of the County Council.

Prevalence of a Control over Infectious Disease.

During the year 51 cases of infectious disease have been notified. Of these 18 were of Scarlet Fever, 19 of Diphtheria, 5 of Pneumonia, 1 of Enteric Fever, 1 of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1 of Erysipelas, 1 of Puerperal Fever, and 5 of Varicella. These were fairly distributed during the whole year, and I do not think that there is any special comment to be made on them.

No cases of Encephalitis Lethargica were notified and we had no "return" of Scarlet Fever. As regards cases admitted to Hospital, and those treated at home; in the case of Scarlet Fever I do not think there is much difference in the results of treatment, but as regards Diphtheria, I think that Hospital cases would show much better results than those treated at home. No use up to the present has been made of the Schick or Dick tests.

The total number of Infectious Cases notified in preceding years was :—

1921	1922	1923	1924
34	68	83	80

The higher totals of 80 and 83 were caused by a larger number of Scarlet Fever Cases. These I notice are now of a very much milder type than one was accustomed to see some 15 or 20 years ago, and are accompanied by far fewer complications.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases in Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	18	12	—
Diphtheria	19	18	2
Enteric Fever	1	—	—
Pneumonia	5	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—
Varicella	5	—	—

No special outbreak of other Infectious Diseases occurred during the year. In disease such as Scarlet Fever, or Diphtheria, other children of the same family as the one attacked, are excluded from school for the appropriate incubation period, or until they are proved to be negative to swabbing.

No Vaccinations or Re-vaccinations (under the Small Pox Prevention Regulations) have been performed.

One death from Influenza was registered, but the disease was not very prevalent during the year. Deaths from Cancer show an increase, there being 15 as against 10 in 1924 and 9 in 1923.

Disinfection of premises following infectious diseases is mainly carried out by the use of Formalin lamps, and where considered necessary by re-painting, re-papering or whitewashing.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

A centre is now working in the Town, and is under the management of the County Council. Lectures are given weekly by the Assistant County Medical Officers, and the attendance is generally good.

Housing.

1. General housing conditions are very fair. During the year 132 have been built, 127 of which are of the cottage type.
2. There does not appear to be any very urgent shortage of houses. Present occupiers of old and defective houses are unwilling to vacate them owing to the increase of rent which they cannot afford if they move into a new one.
3. There is no anticipated important change in the population of the District in the future.

Overcrowding.—Overcrowding occurs to a certain extent, chiefly where the tenants find the rent high ; they then let out one or two rooms to lodgers in order to help pay the rent.

The general standard of houses in the district is fairly good. The general defects found are in roofs, floors, windows, and yard pavings.

Owners do not generally supervise their property as they ought to do, and in some cases owing to their being very poor, are unable to pay the cost of repairing these defects.

Under the Public Health Acts and Housing Acts, notices are served, and the essential work is carried out as far as practicable.

Conditions as regards Water Supply, Closet Accommodation and Refuse Disposal are good, and no particular measures have been necessary during the year.

For Housing Statistics see Table.

Tuberculosis.

During the year five cases have been notified of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and six of Tuberculosis in other organs.

The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were four, and in other organs two.

The age periods are seen in the included table.

Age Periods.	New Cases.						Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5	1			1		1		
10			1	1	1	1		
20		1	2					
25		2						
35	1			1		1		1
45			1				1	1
TOTALS	...	2	3	3	3	3	3	1		2

H. M. CASE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

May, 1926.

Medical Officer of Health.

Causes of Death (Civilians only) in Fareham Urban District, 1925.

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the Year 1925.

		Number of		Abatement Notices.		Nuisances abated after Notices by		Nuisances remaining Unabated.
		Inspections and Observations made	Defects found.	Informal by Inspector.	Formal by Authority	Inspector.	Authority.	
Dwelling-Houses and Schools	Foul conditions	...	47	8	8	8		
	Structural defects	...	172	41	44	37		4
	Overcrowding	...						
	School lavatories	...	12	2	2	2		
	Lodging-houses	...	37	3	3	3		
	Dairies and Milkshops	...	7					
	Cowsheds	...	186	22	22	21		1
	Bakehouses	...	23	2	2	2		
	Slaughter-houses	...	166	3	3	3		
	Ashpit and Privies	...	57	23	21	21		2
House Drainage	Deposit of Refuse and Manure	...	10	2	2	2		
	Water and pail closets including inefficient cisterns	...	604	17	20	17		
	Defective Traps	...	2					
	Other faults	...	163	45	58	44		1
	Water Supply from Wells	...	1					
	Pigsties	...	6					
	Animals and Poultry improperly kept	...	8	1	1	1		
	Offensive Trades	...						
	Smoke Nuisances	...						
	Other Nuisances and Defects	...	99	21	21	19		2
	Market Inspection	...	51					
	TOTAL	...	1651	190	207	180		10

Formal Complaints received	...	11
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	...	1
Special Inspection of Courts	...	21
No. of Water Tests to Drains	...	166
,, Smoke „ „	...	159
,, Connections to Sewers and Inspection of Drainage Works	...	102

Precautions against Infectious Disease.

Rooms Disinfected after Infectious Disease	56
Schools Disinfected	—
Defects found in Drains when testing after Infectious Diseases	11

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances.

Premises. 1	Number of		
	Inspections. 2	Written Notices 3	Prosecutions 4
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	...	64	3
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	...	109	1
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in part 3 of this report)	...	—	—
TOTAL	...	173	4

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. 1	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. 5
	Found. 2	Remedied. 3	Referred to H.M. Inspector. 4	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	...	2	2	
Want of ventilation	
Overcrowding	
Want of drainage of floors	
Other nuisances	...	1	1	
insufficient	...			
Sanitary accommodation	...	1	1	
unsuitable or defective				
not separate for sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (s. 101)	
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake- houses (ss. 97 to 100)	
Other offences (excluding offences relating to out- work which are included in Part 3 of this Report)				
TOTAL	...	4	4	

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, as remediable
under the Public Health Acts.

3.—Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	19	18	2
Scarlet Fever	18	11	
Typhoid Fever	1		
Puerperal Fever	1		
Pneumonia	5		
Erysipelas	1		
Chicken Pox	5		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1		

4.—Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Notified	Cases.		Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths				
	Treated									
	At home	In hospital								
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APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Statistics. Year ended 31st December, 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	132
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts 1919 or 1923 :—								
1. By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
2. By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	124

1.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I.—Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	106
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925							41
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	74

II.—Remedy of Defects without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit or being rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	62
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